

By Saying And By Praying

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Faith will work by "saying" it without "praying" it. Faith also works in prayer. However, when you "pray" it, you still have to "say" it. I will repeat that because it's a little catchy. Faith will work by "saying" it, or it will work by "praying" it—but when you "pray" it, you still have to "say" it.

Let's examine the 23rd and 24th verses of Mark 11. In the 23rd verse we see faith working without praying, but by simply saying what you believe. The words "pray" or "prayer" are not in this verse—but the words "say" and "saith" are:

MARK 11:23

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall SAY unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he SAITH.

The 24th verse deals with prayer. The word "pray" is in this verse:

MARK 11:24

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye PRAY, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

These two verses of Scripture are the ones which brought me off the bed of sickness many years ago. They brought healing to my body from an almost totally paralyzed condition, an incurable blood disease, and two serious organic heart troubles. Therefore, I have always been a stickler for these Scriptures. Of course they are true because Jesus told the truth.

I was healed on a sort of combination of the two verses. (When you "pray" it, you still have to "say" it.) It was there on the bed where I had lain bedfast for 16 months that I prayed it, and then began to say it—not think it. Jesus did-not say, "Whosoever shall think, he shall have whatsoever he thinketh."

I began to say out loud in my room, "I believe that I receive. I believe that I receive healing for my body. I believe that I receive healing for the heart condition. I believe that I receive healing for the paralysis. I believe that I receive healing for the incurable blood disease."

Then finally, just in case I had missed something, I said,

"I believe that I receive healing from the top of my head to the soles of my feet."

When I began to say it, within the hour every symptom of physical deficiency disappeared and I was standing on the floor beside the bed, healed. Praise the Lord!

The manifestation will not always come that fast. There is another Scripture that says, "*Let us hold fast the profession (confession) of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised*" (Heb. 10:23). Many times I have held fast my confession, "I believe that I receive." Sometimes it has been days before the manifestation came, sometimes weeks, sometimes months, and once it was four years.

But it always came. I have never failed to receive.

With something which concerns me individually (and not when another person is involved, because then what they believe has something to do with it), I have leaned and stood more on the 23rd verse. I have just "said" it and not "prayed" it.

For instance with money—I have not prayed about money for years now, and I have never been without. I always just say, "The money will come," and here it comes. Praise God.

When I need a certain amount, I specify it. Once I needed \$1500 by the first of the month. So I "said" it, and I kept "saying" it. A t times of prayer, I would not pray it, I would just say, "By the first of the month I will have \$1500." When the first came I had \$1580.

The Lord actually taught that to me. I did not see it for years. **I had been saved, and then healed by the power of God** as a young Baptist boy, **yet I had never even thought about using my faith beyond salvation or healing.**

Many who are born again have never thought about using their faith beyond believing for their salvation. Even in prayer they don't use their faith. Prayer is always a struggle with them. They're always begging and crying, bawling and squalling, scratching and pulling—and getting nothing, staying defeated.

The last church I pastored (1946-1949) took good care of me. (And I think when such is the case you don't have to do much believing; you just expect it.) But the Lord dealt with me and I left the church to go out into a field ministry.

Well, I want to tell you, I had a struggle that first year. When it was over, I went to the Lord in prayer about the situation.

I said, "Lord, I did what You said to do."

There wasn't a shadow of a doubt about what I was doing being in the will of God. If there had been a shadow of a doubt about going on the field and leaving my church, I would not have waited on the doubt; I would have taken advantage of the shadow and stayed.

Some people say that if you are in the perfect will of God everything will work just right and He will meet every need. But you still have to believe! If you do not believe—even though you are in the perfect will of God—things still won't work right if you don't appropriate what belongs to you. People sometimes think these things will just fall on you automatically, like ripe cherries off a tree, but they will not. "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him . . .*" (Heb. 11:6). God is a faith God. Faith has something to do with it.

As I prayed that day to the Lord, I had all my figures written down in front of me. I brought them to Him.

"Here is my gross income for this full year," I said. "And here is what I got the last year with my church. I had \$1200 more in cold cash pastoring the church. Then too, out of this \$100 less each month I have had to pay my own rent for my family. With the church we had the parsonage furnished, the utilities furnished, and much of what we ate."

You can see that as I took out all my expenses from the lesser amount, it kept pulling it down.

So I said to the Lord, "You said, 'If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land' (Isa. 1:19). I'm sure not eating the good. I'm not wearing the good either. If You want us to eat the good, I know You want us to wear the good. When You said, 'If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land,' doesn't that mean we will prosper?"

I reminded the Lord that the past year I'd worn out my old car. The thing was in such ill repair I sold it for junk. I didn't get enough out of it to pay up what I owed. I had three bank notes and I got just enough money out of the old car to pay the interest to renew them and to buy our children a few school clothes.

"My children are not adequately clothed," I told the Lord. "They are not adequately fed."

I fasted and prayed three days. The third day, the Lord spoke to me, "The trouble with you is, you don't practice what you preach."

That was a heavy blow! Don't tell me I imagined it, because I did not. It hurt.

I said, "Lord, You've hit me a low blow." I came to my defense, as most of us do. "Lord, I do practice what I preach."

"Your trouble is," He continued, "you preach faith, but you do not practice faith."

"Why, Lord," I said, "I do. In all the years since I first received my healing, I have never really been sick. I have always received my healing. My children have always received healing."

"Oh, yes," He said, "you practice faith when it comes to healing. And that is commendable. But that is as far as you ever went with your faith. You see, faith is the same in every realm, in every sphere. You have used your faith only as far as salvation, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and healing are concerned. Yet faith is the same in the financial realm as it is in any of those."

He went on, "Now if it were healing for your body you needed, you would claim it by faith. Then you would go out and publicly announce you were healed. You have done that. Sometimes even while you were preaching any symptoms you had would disappear. You have to do the same thing when it comes to finances."

"All right, Lord," I said. "I will."

"But," the Lord said to me, "there is a little matter that is keeping that text you quoted from working. That Scripture says, 'If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.'"

"Yes, Sir."

"You were obedient. You always talk about how you are obeying me. However, you never have been fully willing."

Don't tell me it takes a long time to get willing. I got willing in 10 seconds. In 10 seconds I had made an adjustment somewhere in my soul realm. Then I said to the Lord, "Now I'm willing! I've been obedient all the time, Lord. You said that. Now I am willing, so I fill the bill. I'm ready to eat the good of the land now!"

"Yes," He said, "I know you are."

Then He said to me, "Now I will tell you what to do. First, never pray about money again. That is, in the sense you have been praying about it—or, what you call praying."

(You see, what we call prayer many times is not prayer. Prayer is fellowship with God.)

"What am I to do?" I asked.

"What you need is down there," He said. "It is not up here in heaven. I am not going to rain down money from heaven. If any money came raining down from here it would be counterfeit. I am not a counterfeiter. What you need is down there. You see, I made everything that is in the earth and put it there. And I did not make it for the devil and his crowd."

(Many people think you ought not have anything if you live for God. They think Christians should go through life with the soles of their shoes out, the top of their hat out, and the seat of their breeches out. They think that is a sign of humility. It is not. It is a sign of ignorance—Biblical ignorance.)

God said to me, "You have read in my Word in the fiftieth Psalm where it says, 'For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.' My Word says, 'The silver is mine, and the gold is mine' (Haggai 2:8). They are mine because I am the Creator. I made it all. I did not make it for myself. I made it for my man, Adam. I said, 'Adam, I give you dominion over all the work of my hands.' Adam was originally the god of this world. He was to dominate this world. He had dominion over the cattle of a thousand hills. He had dominion over the silver and gold. He had dominion over the world and the fullness thereof. But Adam committed high treason and sold out to Satan. Then Satan became the god of this world as Second Corinthians 4:4 calls him."

(Satan was not originally the god of this world—Adam was—but Satan is in dominion now because Adam gave him the permission by selling out to him. So Satan is dominating the world. He is dominating the silver and gold, the cattle of a thousand hills, and so forth. But Jesus came to redeem us from the hand of the enemy! In the Name of Jesus we have authority to claim whatever we need!)

God said to me, "Whatever you need—claim it. Just say, 'Satan, take your hands off my money.' For it is Satan who is keeping it from coming to you—not me. I am not the one who is keeping your children from being fed and clothed adequately."

I saw it! I got the light!

I remember, with, trembling almost, the first time I did it. I was holding a meeting in a small church in East Texas when I was praying about all this. I had preached at this same church one year before, and they had paid me \$57.15 for one week. I knew they thought they had adequately paid me the year before. They thought \$50 a week was just fine.

So I said, "All right, Lord, I will just prove that out right here. I am claiming this week \$150."

If I had suggested to that church they pay \$75, they would have fallen over backwards. If I had suggested \$100, they would have said, "That would take a miracle." If I had suggested \$150, they would have said, "God Himself couldn't do that!" If I had suggested it to the pastor, it would have scared him.

So to prove it out, all I said to him was, "Pastor, don't put on any pressure at all for money during this meeting. Just pass the offering plate and give the people a chance to give."

Then I held fast to my confession: "Satan, take your hands off my money."

After a few days, the Lord told me to extend the meeting to ten days. So I said, "Now, Lord, since I'm staying an extra three days, I am claiming \$200 for the full ten days."

When it was all over the pastor gave me what had been handed in. He said, "Man, this is the most we've ever done. I don't understand it. I can't figure it out."

There was \$240.15!

A little later at another small church which ran only about 90 in Sunday School, I said to the pastor, "Be sure you don't put on any pressure for money. Just pass the plate and give people a chance to give."

When he gave me the money that came in after the first week he said, "Brother Hagin, we've never paid anybody this much. Here is \$280. We average about \$90 a week. We did give one evangelist who was really in a bind a better-than-average offering. He told me about some bills he had to pay. I got up before the people and it took me 45 minutes of saying, 'Who'll give a dollar?' and, 'Who'll give five?' before I finally got him \$140 for one week. Here I haven't said a word and you got \$280. I don't understand it."

I did. Praise the Lord. I understood it thoroughly.

I had some of the most unusual experiences back then with money. And in some of the most unlikely places. I like to prove things. I think we should. The Bible says, "*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (1 Thess. 5:21).

When I first got hold of this truth—you talk about scraping the bottom of the barrel—I was under the barrel and the barrel was on top of me. But I got out, praise God, and started rising to the top! I've been coming to the top ever since. And I have always just "said" it.

Right after the Lord taught me this and I first began to see it, I went home from the meeting and said to my wife, "Honey, we're living in a little three-room apartment; let's get a house."

"Can we afford it?"

I began to tell her what the Lord had said to me. She agreed, "Yes, we can afford it."

We rented a little three-bedroom house. After we had lived there a while, I said, "We could buy this house and the payment would be cheaper than rent. We would be building up equity, too."

So we claimed it. I walked around the yard. The Bible says, "*Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you*" (Josh. 1:3).

I was away from home 90 percent of the time then, but my wife and I wrote each other every day. I wrote her to ask the owners how much they wanted for the house.

She wrote back that they didn't want to sell it. They had moved away because of his job. He had built the house himself, putting a lot of extras in it, and some day they planned to move back into it.

I did not let that daunt me. I wrote back, "Yes, they want to sell it; they just don't know it yet."

We just acted like it was ours. In our letters we talked about "our house."

I let it rest a few months, then wrote my wife to ask again. She did, and wrote me that they said they were not going to sell it. I wrote her back, "Yes they are. They just don't know it."

Then I wrote my wife that I was going to hold a meeting within 50 miles of home and it would be a good time to meet with the owners. I told her to set up a meeting on a certain day.

She telephoned me. She had contacted the owners and they were not interested.

I said, "Don't let that bother you, because they are. They just don't know it yet."

The very next day my wife called me and said, "Honey, I have good news. They just called and said they have decided to sell the house."

I said, "They were slow about finding it out—I've known that for almost a year."

We met with them and learned that someone else who worked with the wife had offered them more money than we wanted to pay—actually more than the house was worth. Finally, we bargained until we were \$500 below the other offer. In those days that was a lot.

It was getting late. I had to get back to the night services. So I said to these people, "I sure would hate for you folks to miss God."

She began to laugh. She said to her husband, "Tell them what you told me."

He insisted she tell it.

"Well, we're Christians. We pray together every night before we go to bed. The past three nights he has said to me, 'Something on the inside of me tells me the house belongs to that preacher.'"

That's how we got our first house, and the second, and the third. We "said" it.

That's how we got our first new automobile.

Saying It or Praying It A Difference in What to Believe

Faith works by "saying" it without "praying," but it also works by "praying." There is a slight difference in what you believe if you "say" it, and what you believe if you "pray" it. We will examine these two verses (Mark 11:23 and 24) again, emphasizing this point. Many people say, "I believe," and just leave it hanging in the air. Jesus did not say just to believe—He told us exactly what to believe.

MARK 11:23

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, BUT SHALL BELIEVE THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH HE SAITH SHALL COME TO PASS; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

What are we to believe when we "say" it? " . . . *that those things which he saith shall come to pass.*"

With our first house my wife and I kept believing over a year's time that what we said would come to pass. And it came to pass!

When one believes "that those things which he saith shall come to pass," they have not yet come to pass. He would not have to believe it if they had already come to pass. He would *know* it then.

So many people walk by sight. They say, "Well, I can't see it. I don't have it. I believe God is going to do it sometime." They have missed the whole thing.

Keep believing that those things which you said—be certain you said it—shall come to pass.

I just keep saying, many times right in the face of contradictory circumstances, "It shall come to pass." That's what Jesus told me to believe. He did not tell me to believe it if I've got it. If I've got it, I can feel it and see it—everybody else can see it.

Oh, I know, the crowd, and other Christians who are walking by sight—and most of them are—filled with doubt, will look at you like you were a little bit "off." But don't let that disturb you, because you know you are "on"—on God's Word!

Jesus said, "... *believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass* ..." What will happen then? "... *he shall have whatsoever he saith* ..." **He shall have—sooner or later, eventually—whatsoever he saith!**

I know what I am talking about. I know it is true. Jesus said it. He is not a liar. I also know it is true because I have put it to practice under all kinds of circumstances. I learned, both from God's Word and from experience—and the Lord said to me, "Now you go teach my people what I have taught you."

Years ago I got into my car and headed home after a meeting with the last offering in my pocket. When I counted that offering it was not enough. I was behind on my rent. I owed Sears and Montgomery Ward. I started driving home that night because the roads were cooler and my tires were thin. It was the last meeting I had scheduled. I had nowhere else to preach—so there was no more income to count on. As I drove along that warm night with the windows rolled down, it seemed to me that one of the tires began to sing a song: *What-are-ya-gonna-do-now? What-are-ya-gonna-do-now?*

Then a second tire joined in—they had a duet: *What-are-ya-gonna-do-now?*

A third tire picked it up—it became louder: *What-are-ya-gonna-do-now? What-are-ya-gonna-do-now?*

The fourth tire made a quartet—all four singing louder and louder: *WHAT - ARE - YA - GONNA - DO -NOW? WHAT-ARE-YA-GONNA-DO-NOW?*

"I'll tell you what I'm going to do," I yelled. "I'm going to act like the Bible is so. I'm going home and to bed—and I'm going to sleep like a baby. That's what I'm going to do."

When I got home my dear wife was concerned. "How much money did you get?" she asked. You see, she was there where the bills were.

"Everything is fine," I said. We don't have a care." I said that in faith. You can have what you say.

"We don't have a care," I told her. "Just go to sleep. We'll talk about it in the morning."

I was awakened late the next morning by the phone ringing. I heard my wife say, "He's still asleep. I hate to disturb him."

"What is it, honey?" I called.

"Some minister is calling person-to-person for you."

"I'll take it." She brought the phone to the bed.

"Brother Hagin," the caller said, "you don't know me." I did not. "I'm Pastor S. When could you start me a meeting?"

I said, "Tomorrow night."

Praise God! I'll tell you, folks who don't live by faith have missed a lot. Everything worked out fine. I didn't lose a wink of sleep or miss a meal. Faith Works!

What To Believe When You Pray It MARK 11:24

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, WHEN YE PRAY, BELIEVE THAT YE RECEIVE THEM, and ye shall have them.

Notice that it is not after you pray, not next week, not next month, but when you pray—that very moment—that you are to believe.

Sometimes when I try to get people to create the reality of answered prayer in their lives through this promise from the lips of Jesus, they will say, "Oh, Brother Hagin, I believe."

"What do you believe?" I ask.

"I believe in prayer."

"That won't work here. It's good that you believe in prayer—but that is not what Jesus said to believe."

"Well, I believe the Bible is so," they say.

"That's good. But it won't work here. That's not what Jesus said to believe."

"Well, I believe in the Holy Ghost."

"That's wonderful. But that won't work here. There are a lot of people who believe in the Holy Ghost who don't get their prayers answered."

"I believe that prayer changes things."

"That's wonderful. It does. But that won't work here."

No, these things will not work here. Jesus tells you exactly what to believe. He said, "... *when ye pray, believe that ye receive them*

This is where people who walk by sight have trouble. They will not believe anything until they see it. They say, "When I see the money in my hand, then I'll believe." Or, they say concerning healing, "When I feel like I'm healed and when all the symptoms disappear, then I'll believe."

They would not have to believe then—they would *know* it.

"*Believe that you receive them,*" Jesus said. Begin to say out of your heart, because you do believe it, "I believe that I receive." (And if you do not believe it, start saying it anyhow. You can school yourself into faith.) Say, "I believe that I receive. I believe that I receive."

What will happen?

"... *and ye shall have them*..." You shall have them! Yes, the *having* is going to come. But the *having* does not come first. The *believing* comes first—and then the *having*!